THE

CRUELTY,

OR, THE

Unhappy *MOTHER.*

Being a Dismal Relation of one Mr. *Palmer* and Three Ruffins, who Barbarously Murder'd his own Mother and her Maid, at *Upton Snagburg*, in the Parish of *Grafton*, in the County of *Worcester*, *November* the 7th, 1707. by Cutting their Throats from Ear to Ear, in a Cruel and Unnatural manner; and afterwards setting the House on Fire.

Together with

The Examination and Confession of *Hunt*, *Palmer* and *Symonds*, before the Dean of *Worcester*, Justice *Wild*, Justice *Cox*, and their Commitment to the Castle, in order to be Tryed the next Assizes.

Attested by the Worcester-Carriers *at the* Castle-Inn *in* Woodstreet. *Mr.* Onion, *at the* Black Horse *in* Aldersgate-street; *and at the* Coach-Makers *at the* Bars, *in the same Street.*

Licens'd according to Order.

London: Printed for *J. Read* near *Fleetstreet*, 1707.

The CRUEL SON: OR, THE UNHAPPY MOTHER, *&c.*

Too many are the Instances of Unnatural and Barbarous Murthers in this degenerate Age; but there is none so immediately new as the following Relation makes mention of, viz.

MRS. *Palmer*, the Widow of Mr. *Palmer*, a Gentleman of about Two Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, living at *Upton Snagburg*, in the County of *Worceſter*, within Four Miles of the City, who at their Marriage ſetled a Jointer of Fifty Pounds a Year upon her, leaving one Heir Male to Inherit his Eſtate: who proving a very Wild and extravagant Spark; too frequently aſſociating himſelf with Leud and Debauch'd Company; inſomuch that by his profuſe way of living, he ſoon run beyond the yearly Income of his Eſtate; after which, finding he could no longer be ſupply'd with Money to purſue his Wicked and Riotous courſe of Life, fitting and conſidering what he had beſt to do, the *Devil* (the inventer of all Wickedneſs) put him upon contriving how to Murder his Mother, and that then he would have Fifty Pounds a Year more; whoſe Counſel he took, and from that time, during the ſpace of half a Year, he ſtudied how to put in execution his Wicked Contrivance; and as he was one day drinking with his Lewd Companions, he acquaint-

acquainted them with his Design, importuning them to assist him in performing it, promising them a Reward of Eight Pounds a-piece for their Pains; upon which they immediately accepted his Proposal, assuring him with a great many Imprecations, that they would act their Parts in the Bloody Tragedy, which after several Meetings and Consultations, they agreed to put in Practice the Seventh of *November*, 1707.

The Fatal Day being come, Mr. *Palmer*, accompanied with Three Ruffins, *viz. Hunt*, *Symonds*, and another, not yet taken, went to his Mother's House, there being no body at home but she and the Maid-Servant, who were both in the same Room; which he perceiving, entred the Room, and immediately assaulted his *Mother* and flung her down upon the Ground, which he had no sooner done, but he in a Cruel, Barbarous and Unnatural manner, stamp'd upon her Stomach several times; but that not compleating his Wicked and Bloody Work, he run his Sword clear through her Wind-Pipe, and Stabb'd her in several Places, of which Wounds she instantly dyed.

The *Maid* being an Eye-witness of the unaccountable Barbarity he us'd to his own Mother, and fearing that it would be her turn next, she immediately ran out of the Room, and hide her self in the Vault, bolting the Door on the inside; But that did not save her, for one of the Ruffins, *viz. Symonds*, watching her whither she went, and resolving to prevent her being an Evidence against them, pursued her, and broke open the Vault

door upon her, and with a Sword cut her over the Face several times, in a grievous and unchristian like manner; but that not compleating his Barbarous Design, he cruelly and basely Stabbed her twice into the Belly, of which Wounds she died.

After which the aforesaid Mr. *Palmer* coming, and seeing what he had done, order'd them to carry her up Stairs, and lay her by his Mother, which accordingly they did. They afterwards began to Consult further, how to prevent their being discover'd; and came to a Resolution, which they put in practice, *viz.* by setting the House on Fire in Four several places, in order to burn the Murder'd Bodies both together, to make the World believe that was the occasion of their Deaths; but the All-seeing God, who pursues the Murderers with Vengeance, soon disappointed their Designs, by sending the Neighbourhood to extinguish it; which they accordingly did; and to their amazing Astonishments, beheld the Murder'd Bodies lying together in a Sad and deplorable Condition, the Room swimming in Blood.

After all was over, the Son came Home, and pretended to be ignorant of what was done; and being told what had happen'd, he feign'd himself Distracted, and rid up and down the Country, and offer'd a Hundred Pounds Reward for the Apprehending of any of the Murderers. Which being noised about the Country, search was soon made after them; upon which, *Hunt*, one of the Ruffins, hearing thereof, his Conscience troubled

him extremely, so that he could not rest Night nor Day, being always very uneasie; which his Sister perceiving, ask'd him what was the Matter, to which he reply'd, *That the Devil would not let him rest Night nor Day, till he had discover'd the bloody Murther of Mrs.* Palmer *and her Maid, which he was concern'd in:* Upon which his Sister went and told some of the Neighbourhood, who immediately acquainted the Bishop of *Oxford*, who is likewise Dean of *Worcester*, and two other Justices of the Peace, *viz.* Justice *Wild* and Justice *Cox*, who thereupon granted a Warrant to bring him before them; where being come, they examined him about the Matter of Fact, and pressed him to make an ingenuous Confession, telling him that they would procure his Pardon; he thereupon gave the Justices the following Account: That he was concern'd in the Murder of Mrs. *Palmer*, and was the Door-keeper, and saw Mrs. *Palmer*'s own Son strike up his Mother's Heels, and stamp upon her Breast, and run his Sword through her Throat, and she died immediately: The Maid seeing this, made her escape to the Vault, to hide her self, and accordingly bolted her self in, but *Symonds* perceiving her, run after her, and broke open the Door upon her, and cut her several times over the Face with his Sword, and afterwards stabbed her twice in the Belly, of which Wounds she immediately died; upon which Mr. *Palmer* came, and order'd him and the other, not yet taken, whom he hired for Eight Pounds a piece, to carry her up to his Mistress where she lay; and

to corroborate that he was one of the Murderers, he unbutton'd his Coat and ſhewed his Shirt to the Juſtices, which was bloody with the Maids Blood.

He expreſs'd a bundance of Sorrow, and begg'd of God to forgive him, acknowledging the baſeneſs and Heinouſneſs of the Action, and deſiring the Juſtices to intercede for him with Her Majeſty to ſpare him, promiſing to amend his Life and Converſation for the future, and that he was enticed to commit this wicked Act by Mr. *Palmer* who took the Advantage of him when he was in drink to engage him in it.

Upon which the Juſtices iſſued out a Warrant for the Apprehending af Mr. *Palmer* the Son, of *Symonds*, another of the Murderers, Who were accordingly taken that Night and brought before them; and being examined ſaparately, they ask'd Mr. *Palmer* what induced him to commit ſo barbarous and unheard-of a Crime, as to murther his own Mother in ſo cruel and unnatural a manner, a thing in its nature ſo heinous, that it can ſcarce be parallell'd in the worſt of Creatures.

To which he replied, That giving himſelf up to Intemperance, Rioting, ane a looſe ſort of Living, he let the Devil have ſuch an aſcendant Power over him, that he could by no means confine himſelf within the Bounds of Moderation; but on the contrary launch'd out into the depth of Prophaneneſs, whereby he had almoſt waſted that plentiful Inheritance with which he was endow'd: Upon which muſing within himſelf how to carry on his further Revels and wicked and Worldly Enjoymen, which he knew very well could not be done without money; he preſently bethought himſelf of the Eſtate which his poor Mother enjoy'd that it would be his after her Deceaſe; but conſidering that ſhe might by the courſe of Nature live a great while longer, being a very healthful Woman, and that in

the

he mean time he ſhould want it to maintain him in is Extravagance, he reſolved, to ſhorten her Days; and ontinued in the ſame mind for half a Year together; t the expiration of which time, being drinking and re- elling with his wicked Comapnions, as he uſed to do, e reveal'd his mind to them, enjoining them to Se- reſie, and engaging them to aſſiſt him in the perfor- nance of his bloody Exploit, promiſing them Eight ounds a man for their pains; which, after a little Conſideration they agreed to; and at length appointed meeting at another time to conſider of the manner, nd day of putting it in Execution. The day of Ap- ointment being come, they met accordingly, and ha- ing propoſed ſeveral ways of murdring this poor Gentlewoman, at laſt they came to a final Reſolution, hat he ſhould be the bloody Executioner of his own Mother himſelf: But then a Queſtion aroſe who ſhould ill the Maid, to prevent her being an Evidence againſt hem; to which *Symonds* immediately replied, that he would do her Buſineſs for her. He likewiſe gave his Opinion, that the ſureſt way to prevent their being diſcover'd was, after they had Murder'd the Maid-ſer- vant, to ſet the Houſe on Fire in four ſeveral places, that he murder'd Bodies might by no means eſcape being conſum'd, to which they unanimouſly agreed; and ac- cordingly the 7th of *November* was the Day fix'd upon, nd the manner of the Murder was thus, That he ſhou'd enter the Room where his *Mo*ther was, and without peaking to her ſhould fling her down, and then ſtamp pon her Breaſt, and if that would nor do, ſhould cut er Wind-Pipe; and that *Hunt* ſhould hold the Door, o prevent any Body going out or coming in. All which bloody Deeds he and the reſt of his Accomplices on the Day appointed, put in Execution.

Symonds being ask'd what he had to ſay in his de- ence; Reply'd, that he had been ſeveral Years ac-

quainted

to corroborate that he was one of the Murderers, he unbutton'd his Coat and ſhewed his Shirt to the Juſtices, which was bloody with the Maids Blood.

He expreſs'd a bundance of Sorrow, and begg'd of God to forgive him, acknowledging the baſeneſs and Heinouſneſs of the Action, and deſiring the Juſtices to intercede for him with Her Majeſty to ſpare him, promiſing to amend his Life and Converſation for the future, and that he was enticed to commit this wicked Act by Mr. *Palmer* who took the Advantage of him when he was in drink to engage him in it.

Upon which the Juſtices iſſued out a Warrant for the Apprehending of Mr. *Palmer* the Son, of *Symonds*, another of the Murderers, Who were accordingly taken that Night and brought before them; and being examined ſeparately, they ask'd Mr. *Palmer* what induced him to commit ſo barbarous and unheard-of a Crime, as to murther his own Mother in ſo cruel and unnatural a manner, a thing in its nature ſo heinous, that it can ſcarce be parallell'd in the worſt of Creatures.

To which he replied, That giving himſelf up to Intemperance, Rioting, ane a looſe ſort of Living, he let the Devil have ſuch an aſcendant Power over him, that he could by no means confine himſelf within the Bounds of Moderation; but on the contrary launch'd out into the depth of Prophaneneſs, whereby he had almoſt waſted that plentiful Inheritance with which he was endow'd: Upon which muſing within himſelf how to carry on his further Revels and wicked and Worldly Enjoyments, which he knew very well could not be done without money; he preſently bethought himſelf of the Eſtate which his poor Mother enjoy'd that it would be his after her Deceaſe; but conſidering that ſhe might by the courſe of Nature live a great while longer, being a very healthful Woman, and that in

the

he mean time he ſhould want it to maintain him in is Extravagance, he reſolved, to ſhorten her Days; and ontinued in the ſame mind for half a Year together; t the expiration of which time, being drinking and re- elling with his wicked Comapnions, as he uſed to do, e reveal'd his mind to them, enjoining them to Se- reſie, and engaging them to aſſiſt him in the perfor- nance of his bloody Exploit, promiſing them Eight ounds a man for their pains; which, after a little Conſideration they agreed to; and at length appointed meeting at another time to conſider of the manner, nd day of putting it in Execution. The day of Ap- ointment being come, they met accordingly, and ha- ing propoſed ſeveral ways of murdring this poor Gentlewoman, at laſt they came to a final Reſolution, That he ſhould be the bloody Executioner of his own Mother himſelf: But then a Queſtion aroſe who ſhould ill the Maid, to prevent her being an Evidence againſt hem; to which *Symonds* immediately replied, that he would do her Buſineſs for her. He likewiſe gave his Opinion, that the ſureſt way to prevent their being diſcover'd was, after they had Murder'd the Maid-ſer- ant, to ſet the Houſe on Fire in four ſeveral places, that he murder'd Bodies might by no means eſcape being conſum'd, to which they unanimouſly agreed; and ac- cordingly the 7th of *November* was the Day fix'd upon, nd the manner of the Murder was thus, That he ſhou'd enter the Room where his *Mo*ther was, and without peaking to her ſhould fling her down, and then ſtamp pon her Breaſt, and if that would nor do, ſhould cut er Wind-Pipe; and that *Hunt* ſhould hold the Door, o prevent any Body going out or coming in. All which bloody Deeds he and the reſt of his Accomplices on the Day appointed, put in Execution.

Symonds being ask'd what he had to ſay in his de- ence; Reply'd, that he had been ſeveral Years ac-

quainted

quainted with Mr. *Palmer*, for whose Leud Conve
fation, he was much the worse, he having drew hi
in to many Inconveniences, particularly Debauche
of several kinds; but nothing of Theft or Murde
for which he is now Apprehended; and that he w
now too sensible of the barbarity and heinousness of th
Fact; for which he heartily beggs pardon of God an
the World; Confessing he was the wicked Person tha
kill'd the Innocent Servant-maid, who was going t
make her Escape from Mr. *Palmer*.

Being ask'd by the Justices how he could be so hard
hearted to shed Innocent Blood, and what Advantage h
could propose to himself there by; to which he an
swer'd, that it was more to prevent their being di
cover'd by her than any thing else; and that at the
last unhappy meeting, to contrive the manner how
to put their Wicked Designs in Execution; it w
Unanimously and Barbarously agreed that Mr. *P*
mer should perform that Bloody, Inhuman, and Un
natural Office of Murdring his Innocent Mother
and I was likwise Chose to be the poor Maid-Servant
Cruel and Bale Executioner, which I Barbarously
perform'd; being ask'd about their firing the Hous
He said, that was also agreed upon as a means to bur
and consume the dead Bodies, who were put both to
gether, that so the World might believe they died b
that unhapy Accident; and not by their blood
Hands. He likewise acknowledged that he had Eigh
Pounds of Mr. *Palmer* for his Pains. Upon whic
the Justices, having examined them, and heard the
Confessions, made their *Mittimus* to the Castle
Worcester, there to remain in Custody till the next A
sizes in order to their being Tryed, and receive a ju
Reward answerable to their wicked and unheard-o
Cruelty.

10 JU

FINIS.